



## THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote children's rights, as outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its vision is that all children should have an opportunity to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, without discrimination, bias or favoritism. UNICEF is one of the UN's largest development and humanitarian organizations. In its capacity as a global advocate for children, UNICEF also mobilizes political will and resources for the promotion of children's rights.

### Strategic Objectives

UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 aims at delivering tangible results for children, especially the most disadvantaged, in both development as well as humanitarian contexts. Together with a broad range of stakeholders UNICEF works towards accelerating achievement of child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in five interconnected Goal Areas to ensure that, in all contexts, including humanitarian crises and fragile settings, every child, including adolescents.

Goal Areas:

1. Health & Nutrition: Survives and thrives with access to nutritious diets, quality primary health care, nurturing practices and essential supplies.
2. Education: Learns and acquires skills for the future.
3. Protection: Is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices.
4. Sanitation: Has access to safe and equitable WASH services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment.
5. Social Protection: Has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty.

### Key Results and Challenges

In 2023, UNICEF operated in an increasingly difficult global environment shaped by new and protracted conflicts alongside climate shocks, heightening the need for urgent humanitarian aid. The increasing imbalance between flexible core resources and earmarked funding further challenges UNICEF's ability to respond quickly to emergencies or address root causes of child poverty and inequality.

Despite these challenges, UNICEF delivered 6.2 million doses of the world's first malaria vaccine, treated 9.3 million children for severe wasting, supported education for 37.7 million children, and expanded mental health support to 34.7 million people.

## FACTSHEET

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation

Fund financed through voluntary contributions

Head of organisation:

Catherine Russell (USA), Executive Director

Headquarter:

New York (USA)

Country Offices:

155 (plus 7 Regional Offices and 32 National Committees)

Total Personnel:

Approx. 13'000

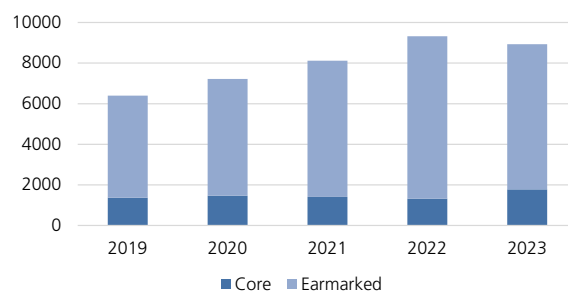
Established in:

1946

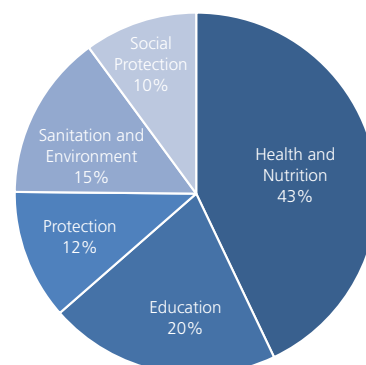
Steering:

Executive board with 36 rotating members

### UNICEF Revenues 2019-23, Core vs. Earmarked Funding (USD million)



### UNICEF Expenditures 2023 per thematic area (%), Total: USD 8'401 million





A vaccination assistant in remote Agig locality located in Red Sea state, Sudan, vaccinates a seven-months old against polio during the house to house polio vaccination campaign. ©UNICEF/UNI562985/Elfatih

## SWITZERLAND AND UNICEF

### Switzerland's Strategic Priorities

UNICEF is Switzerland's most important partner in the promotion of children's rights. Its activities and priorities are aligned with Switzerland's goals for international development. Switzerland particularly values UNICEF's ability to link humanitarian response with development cooperation, and to respond to evolving challenges in protracted and post-conflict situations.

Swiss priorities for the Strategic Plan Period 2022–2025:

- Enhancement of UNICEF's capacity for the protection and education of children, at both humanitarian and development level;
- Reinforcement of UNICEF evaluation capacities, UNICEF's engagement with the private sector and the promotion of gender equality;
- UNICEF's active contribution to the reforms of the UN's development system and to system-wide results.

### Cooperation with EMOPS

Switzerland is a significant partner for UNICEF's Geneva based Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS). It supports EMOPS with core contributions (CHF 2 million), helping UNICEF to strengthen its humanitarian capacity and response. It also supports UNICEF through the Standby Partner mechanism, bringing critical, external expertise rapidly to UNICEF's emergency responses. In 2023, Switzerland was the second largest partner with 20 active deployments. Between 2018 and 2023, Switzerland has supported 74 deployments, primarily for WASH, child protection and emergency.

### UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein

The 32 National Committees (independent local non-governmental organizations) are an integral part of UNICEF's global organization and a unique feature of UNICEF. Collectively they raise around one-third of UNICEF's annual income. In 2023, UNICEF Switzerland and Liechtenstein raised USD 62 Mio for UNICEF.

## SWITZERLAND

Contributions 2023:

Total: CHF 58.6 million  
(1.3% of total budget)

Core: CHF 23 million  
(6<sup>th</sup> among gov. donors)

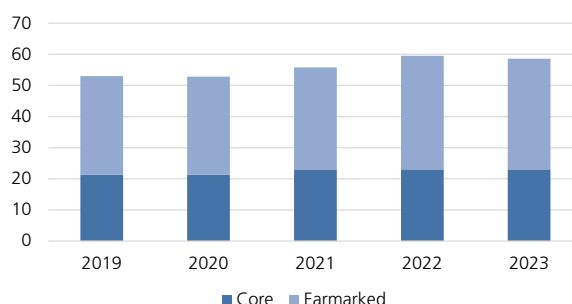
Earmarked: CHF 35.6 million

Number of Swiss Personnel (JPO, UNV incl.):  
26

Involved Swiss government entities  
SDC (UNO & MDBs)

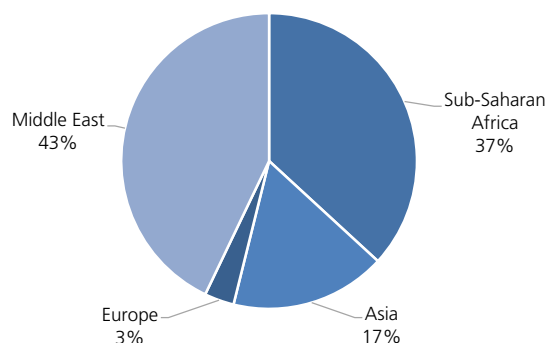
### Swiss Contributions 2019-23

#### Core vs. Earmarked Funding (CHF million)



### Swiss Contributions 2023 per region (%)

Total: CHF 35.6 million



### Burundi: Transforming Eating Habits for Better Nutrition

With support from the Swiss Government, families in Burundi are embracing healthier diets, promoting child nutrition in provinces like Ngozi, Kanyanza, and Muyinga. Mothers now prepare balanced meals using local foods, guided by training from health volunteers. This shift has made children more active, playful, and energetic. Through the awareness campaign in 2023 that reached 216 447 persons, the rate of chronic malnutrition in the country decreased from 56% to 52% within a year. The initiative fosters lasting change by enhancing local food access and equipping households with practical skills to sustain better nutrition in vulnerable communities.

### Contact:

UN & MDB Section

Multilateral Affairs and NGO Division

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Email: [sdc.UNO-MDB@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sdc.UNO-MDB@eda.admin.ch)

Website: <http://www.sdc-multilateral.ch>